

## CLAIMS

1. Process for preparing compounds having a  $\text{CF}_n\text{HC(O)}$  group from a  $\text{CF}_n\text{XC(O)}$  group and zinc in the presence of an alcohol as a proton source, where  $n$  is 1 or 2 and  $X$  is bromine, iodine or preferably chlorine, by exchanging  
5  $X$  for hydrogen, excluding compounds which are substituted by  $X$  both in the  $\alpha$ -position and in the  $\beta$ -position.
2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that compounds having one or more  $\text{CF}_n\text{HC(O)}$  groups are prepared from compounds having one or more  $\text{CF}_n\text{ClC(O)}$  groups, where  $n$  and  $X$  are each as defined in Claim 1.
- 10 3. Process according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that an ester of the formula  $\text{R}^1\text{CFHC(O)OR}^2$  is prepared, in which  $\text{R}^1$  is F; C1-C5-alkyl; or C1-C5-alkyl which is substituted by at least 1 fluorine atom; and  $\text{R}^2$  is C1-C5-alkyl; or C1-C5-alkyl which is substituted by at least 1 fluorine atom; or in that a diester of the formula  $\text{R}^3\text{OC(O)CFHC(O)OR}^3$  is prepared, in which  $\text{R}^3$  is C1-  
15 C5-alkyl; or C1-C5-alkyl which is substituted by at least 1 fluorine atom.
4. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that  $\text{R}^1$  is F or C1-C3 which is part-fluorinated or perfluorinated.
5. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or isopropyl.
- 20 6. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that  $\text{R}^1$  is F or  $\text{CF}_3$ .
7. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that the alcohol corresponds to the  $\text{R}^2$  or  $\text{R}^3$  radical.
8. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that the ester is prepared in situ from acid chloride and alcohol.
- 25 9. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the reaction product is added as a solvent.
10. The process according to Claim 9, characterized in that the azeotrope of methyl difluoroacetate and methanol, which acts as a solvent and if

appropriate as a proton source, is added in the preparation of methyl difluoroacetate.

11. The azeotrope of methyl difluoroacetate and methanol.